

a mildewed ear, blasted its wholesome brother,' was exposed to more temptations and had larger conveniences for carrying on the trade than the more northern States. It is notorious that many large fortunes there and elsewhere were the blood-money of the slave trade, and owed their existence to the wretched cargoes which survived the horrors of the middle passage."

I next read from a charge of the father: "The Constitution of the United States having granted to Congress the power to regulate foreign commerce, imposed a restriction for a limited period upon its right of prohibiting the migration or importation of slaves. Notwithstanding this, Congress, with a promptitude which does honor to their humanity and wisdom, proceeded, in 1794, to pass a law to prohibit the traffic of slaves by our citizens in all cases not within reach of the constitutional restriction, and thus cut off the whole traffic between foreign ports. In the year 1800 an additional law was passed to enforce the former enactments; and in the year 1807, the epoch when the constitutional restriction was to cease, beginning with the ensuing year, a general prohibition of the traffic, as well in our domestic as foreign trade, was proudly incorporated in our statute book." * * *

"Under such circumstances it might well be supposed that the slave trade would in practice be extinguished; that virtuous men would, by their abhorrence, stay its polluted march, and wicked men would be overawed by its potent punishment. But unfortunately the case is far otherwise. We have but too many melancholy proofs, from unquestionable sources, that it is still carried on with all the implacable ferocity and insatiable rapacity of former times. Avarice has grown more subtle in its evasions; it watches and seizes its prey with an appetite quickened rather than suppressed by its guilty vigils. American